

9495, Joshua Academy

PROJECT ABSTRACT

Joshua Academy an elementary charter school will partner with Signature High School (a top 100 national high school) to develop a Wikispace (web pages that groups can edit together)for the purpose of developing thinking skills that aid comprehension using the Six Thinking Hats methodology created by Dr. Edward de Bono ,7 Keys of Comprehension Skills, math application, science application and the development of writing skills as defined by the ISTEP writing rubric. These areas of focus were chosen as a result of key errors identified across curriculum on the Fall 2008 ISTEP assessment. The Wikispace will provide an additional focused, fun, and interactive way for Joshua Academy students to continue to build their skill level in these areas. Initially students, mentors, and the Joshua Academy technology teacher will work with students until a level of comfort with the Wikispace activity format has been reached. When this comfort level has been obtained, students may work at home or at school. TeacherEase online program will help facilitate any home school communication needed.

Joshua Academy students will be paired with a high school mentor in cyberspace to practice grade appropriate Indiana Academic Standards activities related to reading, math, science, and writing created online by their high school mentor. The main focus of these online activities will be critical thinking and comprehension, problem solving and application in the core academic subject areas previously mentioned.

Signature school students will develop an understanding of the components of thinking and knowledge and will incorporate that knowledge into the set up of the Wikispace for Joshua Academy students.

The Wikispace will provide an opportunity to showcase outstanding student work that anyone from any school can access online. The Wikispace will provide an ongoing online communication forum for collaboration, teaching and learning.

Joshua Academy students will experience critical thinking skills online that aid comprehension and carry over to core academic subject areas. Signature school students will explore how we know what we know, how we filter knowledge, and how we think. All students and staff will and experience the importance of community.